

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An anti-microbial, curable silicone rubber composition comprising in at least a portion of the exposed surface of said composition an organic matrix containing homogeneously dispersed particles of metallic silver having a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm (silver nanoparticles) in an amount providing on the surface of said composition an anti-microbially effective but less than cytotoxic silver concentration.
2. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized by comprising said silver nanoparticles in an amount providing a silver concentration of from more than 1 nmol/l to less than 1 μ mol/l on at least a portion of the surface of said composition.
3. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 1 to 2000 ppm, preferably 5 to 1 000 ppm and more preferably 10 to 250 ppm.
4. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 3, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm preferably 5 to 10 nm.
5. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized in that said fluid organic matrix comprises an organic fluid wherein said silver nanoparticles are dispersed.
6. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 5, characterized in that said viscous organic fluid comprises an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon, a mineral oil, petrolatum,

glycerol, a fatty alcohol, polypropylene glycol, an animal and/or vegetable oil or fat, or a silicone oil.

7. A method for manufacturing a curable, anti-microbial silicone rubber composition comprising the steps of:

- 5 - providing a curable silicone rubber composition in a configuration ready for mixing
- providing a liquid organic matrix comprising metallic silver having a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm
- mixing said liquid organic matrix into said silicone rubber composition
- 10 - optionally curing the mixture of said composition with said organic matrix